

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 14 APR 2005

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/B2005/050272

International filing date (day/month/year)
24.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
05.02.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H01R12/12

Applicant
KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/050272

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/050272

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	4,7,13,14
	No: Claims	1-3,5-6,8-12,15-16
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-16
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : US 5 181 853 A (VAN BRUNT, JR. ET AL) 26 January 1993 (1993-01-26)

D2: EP 0 269 248 A (MOLEX INCORPORATED) 1 June 1988 (1988-06-01)

D3: EP 0 431 260 A (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION)
12 June 1991 (1991-06-12)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a system for detachably connecting a first electronic component (15) with a second electronic component (17),

whereby a large number of signal lines of the first component are connected with corresponding signal lines of the second component (17),

whereby a sheet-like part of the first component is provided with a number of conducting areas (19) arranged in an array at the surface of the sheet-like part near an edge of said sheet-like part,

whereby each of said conducting areas (19) is connected with a signal line of the first component,

and whereby a part of the second component (17) is provided with a number of contact elements (19) arranged in an array at the surface of said part,

whereby each of said contact elements (19) is connected with a signal line of the second component (17), whereby each contact element (19) has a contact surface for contacting one of said conducting areas (19) of the first component,

and whereby means (23) are present to push each of said conducting areas (19) of the first component against a corresponding contact element (19) of the second component (17).

2.2 Similarly, D2 and D3 disclose all features of claim 1.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 15

3.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 15 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a clamping member (14) for detachably connecting a first electronic component (140) with a second electronic component (142), whereby a large number of signal lines of the first component are connected with corresponding signal lines of the second component,

whereby a sheet-like part of the first component is provided with a number of conducting areas (146) arranged in one or more arrays at the surface of the sheet-like part near an edge of said sheet-like part,

whereby each of said conducting areas (146) is connected with a signal line of the first component, and whereby a part of the second component (142) is provided with a number of contact elements arranged in one or more arrays at the surface of said part,

whereby each of said contact elements is connected with a signal line of the second component,

whereby each contact element has a contact surface for contacting one of said conducting areas (146) of the first component, which clamping member (14) comprises a row of leaf springs (98),

whereby each leaf spring (98) can push more than one conducting area (146) of the first component (140) against corresponding contact elements (146) of the second component (142).

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 16

4.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 16 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a method for detachably connecting a first electronic component (15) with a second electronic component (17), whereby a large number of signal lines of the first component are connected with corresponding signal lines of the second component (19), whereby a sheet-like part of the first component is provided with a number of conducting areas (19) arranged in one or more arrays at the surface of the sheet-like part near an edge of said sheet-like part (2),

whereby each of said conducting areas (19) is connected with a signal line of the first component, and whereby a part of the second component (17) is provided with a number of contact elements (19) arranged in one or more arrays at the surface of said part, whereby each of said contact elements (19) is connected with a signal line of the second component (6),

whereby each contact element (19) has a contact surface for contacting one of said conducting areas (19) of the first component, and

whereby each of said conducting areas (19) of the first component is pushed against a corresponding contact element (19) of the second component (17).

4.2 Similarly, D2 and D3 disclose all features of claim 16.

5 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-14

Dependent claims 2-14 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

5.1 Features of claims 2 and 3 are known from D1 and D3.

5.2 Features of claim 5 are known from D1, D2 and D3.

5.3 Features of claims 6 and 8-12 are known from D2.

5.4 Features described in claims 4, 7 and 13-14 are merely some of several straight forward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill; in order to solve the problem-

posed.

6. INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The subject-matter of the application relates to a system, a clamping member and a method for detachably connecting electronic components, that obviously involves an industrial applicability.